

REMARKS

Claims 10-20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as follows:

1. Claims 10-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (USP 6390597) in view of MUTO (JP 2001232826A).

2. Claims 10, 13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katagami (USP 2002/0105688) in view of MUTO (JP 2001232826A).

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (USP 6390597) in view of MUTO (JP 2001232826A), and further in view of Minowa (USP 5936648).

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katagami (USP 2002/0105688) in view of MUTO (JP 2001232826A), and further in view of legal precedent.

As set forth above, each of the rejections 1-4 relies on the teachings of MUTO (JP 2001232826A). Specifically, in each of the rejections, the Examiner relies on purported teachings of MUTO related to printing in "main and sub-scanning directions" (e.g., paragraph 3 of page 3 of the Office Action, copied below for reference):

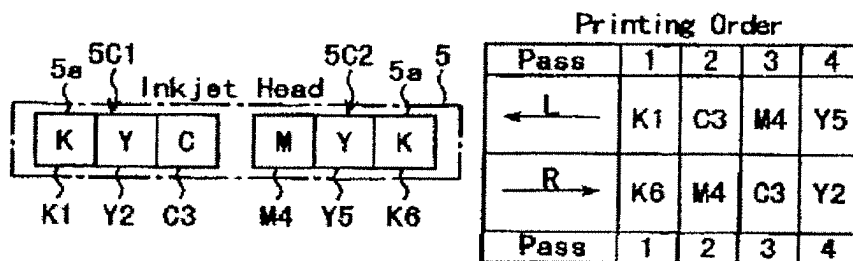
MUTO discloses an inkjet printer including an inkjet head comprising a plurality of ejectors (nozzles) selectively discharging color inks during the movement of the inkjet printhead in main and sub-scanning directions (first and second directions) (*Abstract*).

Applicant respectfully points out that Claim 10 recites (in pertinent part, emphasis added):

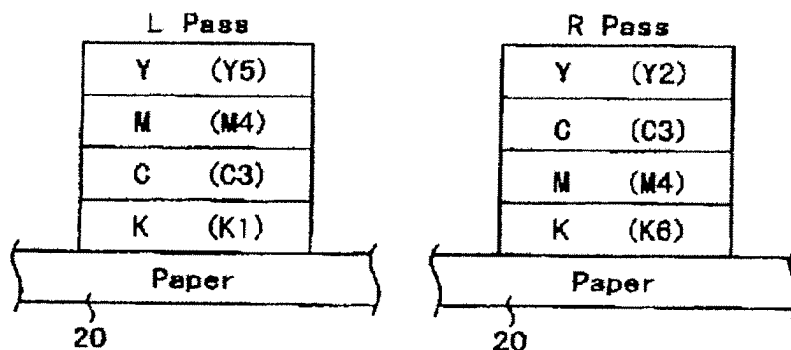
...means for moving the print head in a first print direction and a second print direction across a substrate without changing a rotational orientation of the print head relative to the substrate, **the first print direction and the second print direction being nonparallel...**

Applicant traverses the Examiner's characterization of MUTO if that characterization assumes MUTO's "main and sub-scanning directions" are "nonparallel", as set forth in Claim 1. The figures published with MUTO's abstract (copied below for reference) appear to depict two parallel printing directions "R" and "L":

(a)



(b)



Further, Applicant submits a machine-translated copy of MUTO obtained from Patent and Utility Model Gazette DB, web address <http://www4.ipdl.ncipi.go.jp/Tokujitu/tjsogodben.ipdl?N0000=115>. The machine-translated copy appears to consistently refer to the printing directions as being "Left" and "Right", i.e., parallel.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above-listed rejections 1-4 directed to Claims 10-20 because (a) all of these rejections rely on MUTO, and (b) MUTO does not appear to teach "means for moving the print head in a first print direction and a second print direction across a substrate without changing a rotational orientation of the print head relative to the substrate, the first print direction and the second print direction being nonparallel", as recited in Claim 10, and (c) Claims 11-20 are dependent from Claim 10.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

CONCLUSION

Claims 10-20 are pending in the present Application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 451-5902 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Bever". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a distinct "B" at the end.

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